

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /040 W

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R 061520Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2046

UNCLAS BERLIN 5210

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, GE

SUBJ: JEWISH CEMETERY IN EAST BERLIN

REF: KLEIN-WARD TELCON

1. ON FEBRUARY 3, EMBOFFS VISITED THE JEWISH CEMETERY AT HERBERT-BAUM STRASSE 45, BERLIN-WEISENSEE. FIRST OPENED OVER A CENTURY AGO, THIS LARGE CEMETERY REPLACED THE SMALLER, CENTURIES-OLD JEWISH CEMETERY ON SCHOENHAUSER ALLEE AFTER THE JEWISH EMANCIPATION IN GERMANY. IT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND EMBASSY OFFICERS WERE PROVIDED A HEAD COVERING TO WEAR BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO ENTER. DURING AN EXTENSIVE WALK THROUGH THE HISTORICALLY RICH CEMETERY, EMBOFFS WERE IMPRESSED WITH A HIGH LEVEL OF MAINTENANCE. A NUMBER OF CARETAKERS WERE SEEN ON THE GROUNDS. EMBOFFS WERE TOLD THAT COSTS OF CEMETERY MAINTENANCE ARE BORNE IN PART BY THE EAST BERLIN JEWISH COMMUNITY AND IN PART BY THE STATE. THE PERSONNEL OF THE CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION (FRIEDHOFS-VERWALTUNG), INDICATED THAT THE CEMETARY CONTAINS OVER 1,500 GRAVES AND STILL SERVES THE 400 MEMBER "JEWISH CONGREGATION" (JUEDISCHE GEMEINDE) OF EAST BERLIN. THE ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL SET THE TOTAL JEWISH POPULATION OF EAST BERLIN AT APPROXIMATELY 2000.

2. WE HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO VISIT THE SYNOGOGUE AND TO MEET WITH DR. PETER KIRCHNER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BERLIN  
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JEWISH COMMUNITY.

3. PLEASE INFORM AMBASSADOR COOPER.GROVE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JEWS, CEMETERIES, TRAVEL REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 06 FEB 1976  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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